

Reptilia, Squamata, Leiosauridae, *Urostrophus vautieri* Duméril and Briçon, 1837: Distribution extension, new state record, and geographic distribution map

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ABSTRACT: We present the first record of *Urostrophus vautieri* for the state of Espírito Santo and a distribution map for the species. This species was previously known from the states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. The present record represent an extension of nearly 200 km to the North from the nearest published record for the species.

Urostrophus is a leiosaurid lizard genus represented by only two species: *U. gallardoi* Etheridge and Williams, 1991 and *U. vautieri* Duméril and Briçon, 1837 (Etheridge and Williams 1991). *Urostrophus gallardoi* was described in 1991 in the occasion of the revision of the genus (Etheridge and Williams 1991) and is currently known from northwest Argentina and southern Bolivia (Tedesco *et al.* 1992; Torres 1996). *Urostrophus vautieri* (Figure 1) was described by Duméril and Briçon (1837) from “Brésil”. The type locality was later restricted to Rio de Janeiro by Duméril and Duméril (1851). According to Etheridge and Williams (1991), the species is known from the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and southern Minas Gerais, in Brazil (Figure 2). Santos *et al.* (2009) reviewed the species distribution in Brazil and provided additional records in Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, extending the known geographical distribution of *U. vautieri* in those states. Santos *et al.* (2009) also referenced a record by Ruschi (1966) to the state of Espírito Santo but did not include the record in their map of distribution (see Figure 1 in

Santos *et al.* 2009). The record by Ruschi (1966) was not mentioned by Etheridge and Williams (1991) in their review of the genus. The record was made in a compilation of the reptile species known to occur in Espírito Santo at the time (Ruschi 1966). Although we cannot ignore that Ruschi (1966) was the first to register *U. vautieri* in Espírito Santo we must mention that Ruschi’s list is not very reliable. No voucher number, collections examined or further details are given for any of the recorded species and several of them doubtfully occur in the region. Similar inconsistencies have been reported to other species lists compiled by Augusto Ruschi (*e.g.* birds - Simon 2000; Pacheco and Bauer 2001).



FIGURE 1. *Urostrophus vautieri*, in life, from Pedra Azul, municipality of Domingos Martins, state of Espírito Santo, Brazil.

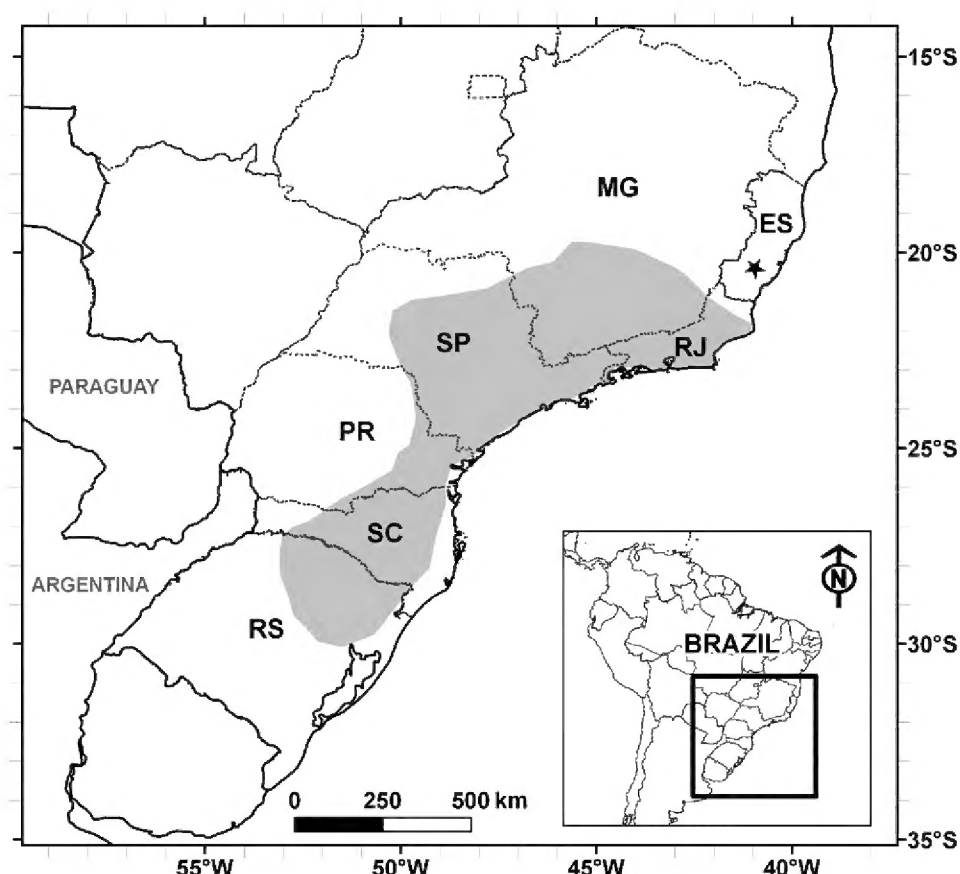


FIGURE 2. Map of southern and southeastern Brazil showing the known distribution of *Urostrophus vautieri* (green shade; adapted from Santos *et al.* 2009), and the additional record reported here (star). ES = Espírito Santo, MG = Minas Gerais, SP = São Paulo, RJ = Rio de Janeiro, PR = Paraná, SC = Santa Catarina and RS = Rio Grande do Sul.

During the examination of a small regional collection from Parque Estadual da Pedra Azul (PEPAZ), the senior author found one specimen of *Urostrophus vautieri* collected in Pedra Azul, municipality of Domingos Martins, state of Espírito Santo, Brazil (Figure 3). This specimen is now deposited in the zoological section of Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão (MBML), Santa Teresa, state of Espírito Santo (MBML 2729). Unfortunately only limited locality information is available for this specimen. An additional specimen was recently photographed by DAK in the same region where the first specimen was collected (Figure 1). The specimen was photographed while basking on a rock at around 11:00 h on 20 November 2008.

As far as we are aware, the specimen MBML 2729 and the photograph published here are therefore the first verifiable vouchers of the occurrence of *U. vautieri* in the state of Espírito Santo. The records represent an extension of nearly 200 km to the north from the nearest published record for the species (Santos et al. 2009).



FIGURE 3. Overview of the Pedra Azul rock and its surrounding rainforest, habitat where the *Urostrophus vautieri* population reported here was found.

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